



# Celebrating Wonder Years

## Space Center Houston hosts celebration of space exploration's formative years



More than 800 JSC employees and retirees, along with the Nassau Bay community, enjoyed an evening of music, reminiscing and visiting at Space Center Houston last month.

The event was a celebration of several milestones: the 15th anniversary of STS-1, the 35th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's flight on Vostok 1 and the third year of the sister city relationship between the city of Nassau Bay and Star City, Russia.

The program consisted of welcoming remarks from JSC Director George Abbey, Nassau Bay Mayor Don Johnson and congressman Steve Stockman, R-Texas. Astronaut John Young shared some of his memories of the first launch of a reusable space vehicle.

Frank Culbertson, manager of the Phase 1 office, served as Master of Ceremonies and introduced a series of speakers who discussed the new partnership of the Russian and American space programs. After the speakers program, a music and dancing presentation by a Russian Dance troupe and Troika band was performed and to end the evening the Max-Q astronaut band regaled the audience with selected music.

- From left to right, top to bottom:
- 1) Russian dancers dress in colorful costumes to entertain the many attendees of the celebration;
  - 2) The Lone Star Blue Grass Band performs a variety of traditional bluegrass music;
  - 3) Several individuals, some dressed in traditional Russian costumes, celebrate the Sister Cities relationship with Nassau Bay and Star City;
  - 4) STS-1 Commander John Young reflects on the first flight of a reusable space vehicle;
  - 5) With the help of Space Center Houston crew members, more than 800 JSC employees and retirees check into SCH to enjoy the celebration;
  - 6) Party attendees check out an Andrew "Pat" Patnesky display of memorable STS-1 photos;
  - 7) Food and drinks are plentiful during the party;
  - 8) JSC Deputy Director Jim Wetherbee—a member of the Max-Q band—performs on the drums during the celebration;
  - 9) Max-Q members Kevin Chilton, left, and Hoot Gibson, entertain the crowd with a variety of tunes;
  - 10) Astronaut Chris Hadfield entertains the crowd with his performance during the celebration. □



JSC Photos by Benny Benavides